Lokoja Prof 2633

KABBA DIVISIONAL HALF-YEARLY REPORT - 1946.

INDEX.

A

Kabba, 17.8.46

The Resident,
Kabba Province,
Lokoja.

In duplicate.

803/150. I send herewith half-yearly report for 1946, in respect of Kabba Division.

B.
TAB

J.F.G. Hopkins
District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.

AAU

PART II. DIVISIONAL AFFAIRS.

Area and Boundaries.

Unchanged. The Aworo-Koton Karifi boundary dispute over Jifo and Okyakyara islands is now settled following a dispute regarding farming rights on the former.

Population.

2. The annual recount produced the following figures as compared with 1945 :-

	A.M.	A.F.	Children M.	Children F.	Infirm. M.	Infirm. F.	Blind. M.	Blind. F.	Lepers M.	Lepers F.	Total
N. A.											
Kabba	-53	-235	/119	/303	-16	-63	/10	/ 1	-27	-30	/209
Yagba	-65	/184	/157	/ 41	/32	-150	- 5	/10	- 5	- 2	/197

Divisional Staff.

3. There was no District Officer for the period 1-14 January until Mr. T.F.G. Hopkins returned from leave and took-over on 15th January and remained in charge until the end of the half-year.

Clerical Staff.

4. Mr. A. A. Utuk, 3rd Grade Clerk has been Divisional Clerk throughout the period.

Non-Clerical Staff.

5. M. Haruna, the Senior Government Messenger was suspended on 5.3.46 pending trial on a charge under Section 100 of Criminal Code. He was later convicted in the Court of the Magistrate, Benin, and dismissed as from the date of suspension. He was replaced by ex-NCSM Braima Kabba.

6. The following served in the Division during the period :-

M. Haruna 1.1.46 - 4.3.46
M. Mundi 1.1.46 - 30.6.46
Jonathan Oluwole 1.1.46 - 30.6.46
NCSM Braima Kabba 10.3.46 - 30.6.46

Visitors.

7. Visits were paid to the Division during the half-year by the Resident in charge Kabba Province (twice), Divisional Geological Surveyor, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Town Planning Officer (Northern Provinces), Inspector of Produce (Akure), Forest Officer (Ondo), Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (Lokoja), Provincial Engineer (numerous), Education Officer, Medical Officer (Lokoja) (thrice), Archdeacon Lennon, Assistant Surveyor Posts and Telegraphs (Benin).

Events of Importance.

8. Empire and Victory Days were celebrated by school sports etc.

9. Large numbers of returned ex-servicemen have arrived at their homes and a number have been found employment. Their general demeanour and good behaviour are a credit to the training they have received.

PART III. NATIVE ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES.

Aworo District.

10. In spite of continued neglect owing to the inaccessibility of this district its administration continues satisfactory. The boundary with Koton Karifi having been settled a dispute arose over farming rights on Jifo island, the Village Head endeavouring to oust the Ikumo (Koton Karifi) farmers from farms they had cultivated for generations. Prompt action through the Olu Aworo ensured that the established rights of these people were not upset.

11. This district like Aworo has suffered to some extent from neglect and there are signs that the administration has deteriorated from the not-very- high standard of the past. Bunu District.

12. The unsatisfactory state of affairs in this district has shown little improvement in spite of considerable attention from the District Officer. The incompetence and complete failure of the Central Council to function as a Native Authority leads one to doubt whether any improvement can be expected from it in its present form. A suggestion from the District Officer that the Council should be reduced in numbers, or alternatively that the 3 group heads should form a joint Native Authority, was discussed by them in May but they were unanimous for the continuance of the status quo. The main stumbling block to good administration is the vanity and self-importance of every petty headman and title-holder coupled with mutual jealousy and suspicion causing a continual jockeying for position and prestige. Ijumu District

13. The trouble caused by the ex-Olugbedde has now, it is hoped, been settled. He has left the District and gone to live in Ikare from where he visits his farms at Aiyetoro for a few days from time-to-time, notifying his coming in advance. Feeling still runs high in the Igbedde Group on this question of alleged interferance with the administration, but it is thought that the real trouble was potential rather than real and derived from his rudeness to his successor.

14. The appointment of the Eleta of Odokoro as Olu Gbedde has not yet been confirmed owing to the complete negativeness of his administration to date. His health is poor and his bona fides is open to some doubt.

15. This district continues to be the one bright spot in a gloomy administrative picture. The Obaro is capable and respected and compared with his neighbours is a paragon of honesty and straight-dealing. Kabba District.

16. As with the Ijumu Council the Yagba Council suffers from the complaint that what is everyone's business is no one's. The result has been to evolve the Disciplinary Committee as virtually the Native Authority, the Agbana of Isanlu and the Olu Okeri as the dominant voices deferred to by the other members. In May the Council voted, with one dissentient, for the Agbana of Isanlu and the Olu Okeri to become District Headmen of East and West Yagba respectively and to form a joint Native Authority for the whole area. The matter has been referred to the Chief Commissioner for his approval. Yagba District.

17. The dissentient was, of course, the Village Head of Mopa, the ex-Aloko, formerly a District Head. This man has never ceased to intrigue to be re-instated. In June he and others were fined in the East Yagba Native Court for endeavouring to cause dissatisfaction over the appointment of a new Village Head for Ife, who had been chosen by a majority vote of the Ife people. He is jealous of the Agbana and will almost certainly try to undermine his authority, though his influence is not great and he is more likely to be hoist with his own petard.

General Tax.

18. There was no change in the tax rate this year. The assessment for 1945/46 and 1946/47 is given below :-

N.A.	1945/46	1946/47
Kabba	£5854. 2. 8	£5792. 3. 8
Yagba	£5146. -. -	£5118. 9. 6

Native Treasuries

19. The work of the two Native Treasury Accountants has been of a reasonably good standard but the Yagba Native Treasury Assistant is inclined to be muddled-headed on occasions. The office work has improved in both Native Treasuries.

Judicial.

20. Magistrates Court. 2 criminal and no civil cases were tried during the period. 2 criminal and 3 civil cases were heard at Kabba by the Magistrate, Benin in June. Preliminary Investigations into 2 murder cases were held and the accused committed for trial before the Supreme Court.

21. Native Courts. The number of cases heard by the Bunu and Aworo Courts remains low. The very large number of matrimonial cases heard by the Kabba, Ijumu and East Yagba Courts demonstrates a serious flaw in the social structure of these districts. The majority of divorces show adultery as the cause but the Courts of their own volition have shown a disinclination to prefer such a charge although Native customary law sanctions a criminal hearing for adultery. These three courts have been urged to institute such prosecutions even though the complaint laid before them is merely a suit for divorce. The Native Authorities have been urged to use their influence to amend this state of affairs.

22. Reviews of Native Court cases numbered 12 criminal and 16 civil of which 16 were Ijumu cases, 5 Kabba, 5 East Yagba, 1 Aworo, 1 Bunu and nil West Yagba. These figures speak for themselves; the deplorable condition of the Ijumu Court, largely brought about by the Ex-Olu Gbedde, has not improved and the court members have been severely censured on numerous occasions.

23. The following cases were heard and fees collected during the period :-

Native Court.	Criminal cases.	Civil cases.	Fees.	Fines.
Kabba	28	155	£110. 5. 3	£14. 7. 6
Ijumu	52	178	52. 5. -	68. -. 3
Bunu	11	75	46. 2. 6	3.15. -
Aworo	9	9	7.10. 1	5.11. -
East Yagba	46	195	159.17. -	28.10. -
West Yagba	46	192	148.19. 7	25. -. -
Total	192	804	£524.19. 5	£145. 3. 9

Police.

24. The work of the Kabba Native Administration Police has been far from good, but some improvement was shown towards the end of the half-year. Two constables were dismissed during the period and one resigned; they have been replaced by ex-servicemen.

25. The work of the Yagba Native Administration P is infinitely better than that of the Kabba Native Administration due mainly to the work of Sergeant Enoc

Rumide

Rumido. One constable, an ex-serviceman, was dismissed for inefficiency and insubordination; he was replaced and all vacancies filled by ex-servicemen.

26. 2 men from each Native Administration have undergone a 3 months course in general police duties and 1 in investigation and court work. These courses are proving of great value.

Prisons.

27. The daily average of prisoners has risen from 3.56 in 1944 and 9.17 in 1945 to 12.23 for the half-year. This increase is mainly due to prisoners awaiting trial before the Court of the Magistrate, Benin, and the Supreme Court. The health of the prisoners has been good.

Medical and Health.

28. The Dispensary Attendant at Kabba Native Administration Dispensary has been retired owing to age and his place taken by a younger man who was trained at Lokoja Hospital.

29. A midwife-in-training has been selected for Kabba Native Administration and is undergoing her preliminary training at the Lokoja Hospital.

30. There have been a few sporadic outbreaks of small pox during the period but prompt action was taken and no epidemic ensued. 1849 vaccinations were carried out during the period.

31. A start at improving the deplorable lack of sanitation in villages throughout the Division has been made in Kabba Town where the almost complete lack of domestic salgas is being remedied.

32. The intake of lepers to the Sudan Interior Mission Leper Camp at Ejiba proved greater than the rate of expansion of accommodation. Sanitation was non-existent, feeding poor and over-crowding excessive. An inspection by the Senior Leprosy Officer in March would undoubtedly have led to the closing of the camp had it not been for the obvious difficulty of again collecting and segregating the lepers had they been sent home. As the result of his report admissions have ceased and definite minimum requirements of staff, housing and treatment have been laid down.

Posts and Telegraphs

33. A new Postal Agency at Ekinrin has been approved but its opening is delayed owing to the shortage of equipment.

34. An overhaul of the mail service between Kabba and Ilorin has resulted in some improvement. The shortage of tyres and tubes for the mail runners cycles was a contributary factor in the inefficiency of this service but has now been remedied.

Education.

35. 2 new mission schools and 2 new community schools were approved during the half-year. The Ife Community School continues to be satisfactory but its finances are a little precarious owing mainly to a prolonged vacancy in the Village Headship which delayed the 1946 voluntary collection. The question of levying an education rate to finance these community schools has been abandoned. Grants from the Native Administration and, it is hoped, from Government will bring the balance required from voluntary subscriptions well within the ability of the community.

Agriculture.

Agriculture.

36. The yam crop has again failed due to insufficient rain in February and March. The position regarding this staple crop has become exceedingly grave. The type of yam planted will not keep for more than 6 - 7 months; planting is carried out in November - December and the crop reaped in June - July. Rain falling in January - March germinates the crop, but unless sufficient rain falls after germination to keep the growing plant alive it withers and dies. Continued poor yields have led to a decrease in acreage and no surplus seed for supplying failures, which have been replaced by cassava. The next few years may see the yam becoming merely a secondary crop.

37. The rainfall for the half-year as compared with that of the last 4 years is given below :-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Kabba	23.78	18.49	17.51	19.42	17.09
Yagba	9.14	25.64 ?	16.86	21.83	19.16

38. As from 1.5.46 the Kabba Dairy was taken-over by the Kabba Native Administration. Production dropped considerably in the latter part of 1945 due to sickness in the herds and has not yet regained normal level. At present a small loss is being sustained by the Native Administration but revenue and expenditure should balance as the herds come into full production.

Veterinary.

39. The Igbirra Native Administration Veterinary Assistant has visited the Division and carried out inoculations of all the cattle in the Kabba Native Administration against anthrax and black-quarter. He will be inoculating Yagba Native Administration in July.

Forestry.

40. No Forestry Officer has visited the Division during the half-year except for a stay of one hour by the Forestry Officer Ondo. The Forest Guard dismissed in 1945 has been replaced by an ex-serviceman.

Public Works.

41. Normal road maintenance has been carried out. The new steel and concrete bridge at mile 8 on the Kabba - Lokoja Road is nearing completion. Plans and estimates for the Kampe River bridge are now complete but work awaits an Inspector of Works to supervise construction as also the building of a new District Officer's house, Divisional Office, Post Office and Postmaster's Quarters at Kabba.

Mining.

42. Nothing to report. A Mines Office has been open at Egbe. The geological mapping of the Yagba area continues under the supervision of Mr. Jaques, Geologist.

Trade and Economic.

43. The shortage of food continues and prices have again increased. As the new yam crop commenced to come on the markets the price actually advanced. There is still plenty of money about which is causing prices to inflate unduly. There is still the tendency to leave agricultural pursuits which is mitigating against an improvement in food supplies.

Missions.

Missions.

44. The relations of the people and the missions remain friendly. The Sudan Interior Mission dispensaries at Mopa, Isanlu Makutu and Egbe continue to do good work. The bulk of the European and American personnel has changed during the half-year.

45. Two brawls between Moslems and Christians occurred at Igbagun (Yagba), the ringleaders being punished in the Native Court and the hamlet headman being severely censured for lack of control by the Yagba Council.

PART IV. GENERAL.

46. The half-year shows a gloomy picture in review, shortage of food leading to inflation and a general slackening of effort. Shortage of staff causing a static, if not slowly deteriorating, administration and a total inability to further development plans either by capital expenditure or by the efforts of the people themselves. Until a second Administrative Officer is available and the District Officer can be relieved of much of his routine work any hope of improvement is small indeed.

J. J. C. Hopkins

District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.

AAU:

No. 2633C/8.
Lokoja, 20 August, 1946.

The District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division,
Kabba.

Kabba Divisional Half-Yearly Report - 1946.

Your No. 803/150 of 17/8/46.

Para 12. Do council members have any defined executive functions? Trouble with most councils is that members have little to do but talk, and little to think about except personal prestige. If one could be made "minister" for agriculture, another for schools etc. each would have a defined task and a personal responsibility. Each could be made to do something useful or go.

Para 16. See comment on para 12.

Para 21. Difficulties of this kind are common. I think it is the result of marriage systems devised for small, isolated, groups, breaking down after isolation has disappeared and free movement by individuals has become possible. The solution seems to lie along Mohammedan lines, for divorce. The main points are:-

(i) Court will not pronounce a divorce unless good grounds are shown. It is not enough for the woman to say "I'm tired of him" and produce the bride price. If she cannot show grounds, the woman should be given the choice of returning to her husband, or living without a husband at all. If she chooses the latter, and attempts to remarry or to have a lover, she can be accused of bigamy, or adultery, and punished, since legally she is still married though living apart from her husband.

(ii) In the case of a divorce pronounced by the court, the court may assess the amount payable by the woman. In a case of e.g. cruelty, nothing might be payable. When the woman had grown old, the amount payable would not be assessed on what was paid for her originally, but on her "market value" at the time of divorce. Looks, age, social status, and so on, would be the guide to "market value."

(iii)

(iii) Pay dowry to the woman herself, not to the parents. The woman then has something in hand if divorced by her husband.

(iv) Introduce the 3 month period between marriages, to avoid disputes over parentage.

It will take a lot of time and explanation to put such ideas across. Marriage customs cannot be changed easily, but I am certain that final solution lies along the lines suggested. Principal snag at the moment is that a man would like a system which would permit him to seduce the wife of another, while his own is protected from seduction. Whether at any one moment, he favours easy divorce or not, depends upon which of these two aspects is concerning him most at the time he expresses his views. With the men shifting from one leg to the other, the women have the entire game in their hands - and they seem to be playing it for all they are worth.

B.

Ag.Resident,
Kabba Province.

GUC

The Resident,
Kabba Province,
L o k o j a.

Kabba, 11th December, 1946.

Provincial Annual Report, 1946.

Your No.2673/2 of 2nd December. Administration has remained static due to shortage of Staff. For the same reason development works have remained on paper only.

2. Some improvement to the bridging of the Kabba - Lokoja road has been carried out.

3. Few men from this Division remain to be demobilised. To date 127 have been demobilised of which 17 have been placed in employment. A large proportion of those not in employment are motor drivers and they are averse to settling themselves in temporary employment until such time as the motor transport position improves. They have gone quietly back to their homes, however, and no administrative trouble has resulted.

4. 7 Mission and 3 Community Schools have been opened during the year.

5. A great increase in matrimonial cases in Native Courts gives rise to apprehension. The increase is largely due to an increase in travelling and the ease with which a woman can "lose" herself when she leaves her husband. An overhaul of Native Marriage laws is under consideration by the Native Authorities.

T.F.G. Hopkins
District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.

MOA.

No.803/15

No.803/165A.
Kabba, 14th December, 1946.

The Resident,
Kabba Province,
Lokoja,

G12-13

I forward herewith Part I of the Kabba Divisional Report for 1946.

T.F.G. Hopkins

District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.

MOA.

Kabba Divisional Annual Report, 1946.

Part I Divisional Summary.

1. The year has been notable as the first year of Peace after the Greatest War of History. The people show little understanding of the reasons for the continuance of controls and the large number of commodities still in short supply. A very parochial attitude pertains which makes a fifth consecutive failure in the yam crop to bulk much larger than the shortage of imported goods in the eyes of the people. A partial failure of the cowpea crop has further upset the local economy. In the past much of the maize and cowpeas were exported and formed the major cash crops of the peasants. These are now required to make good the shortage of the stable food, yams. In consequence prices continue to rise though no actual shortage of food has existed. The principal reason for the continued failure of the yam crop has been the semi-drought following the first rains. The crop is planted in the period October-December; March rains germinate the seed which shrivels and dies if April rain is inadequate. Planting in April is not followed owing to the fear that seed will by then have been eaten, a vicious circle.

2. The return of Ex-Servicemen to their homes has continued smoothly through-out the year and few are left to come. The number for whom employment has been found is about 12½%. The high percentage of Motor Drivers who wish to follow the trade taught them in the Army makes resettlement difficult during the present acute shortage of motor transport. Few have shown themselves willing to seek other employment until the situation improves, but as gratuities dwindle circumstances are doing the work of resettlement in most cases. The men have shown themselves much improved by their military service and have behaved extremely well on the whole considering the utopia of salaried appointments many of them appeared to have expected to be awaiting them.

3. Shortage of Staff has resulted in the minimum supervision of Native Administrations. Progress can not be claimed but the standard of administration in the Districts has remained static and has not deteriorated. The contrast between the administration of the Districts of which the Native Authority is a Chief and those administered by a Council continues to be very marked. The Ijumu and Yagba Central Councils do not function except as advisary bodies. In the former the three Groups of Igbedde, Adde and Ogidi are virtually independent, held together only by sharing a Native Court. Yagba in practice divides itself into West Yagba, which is a comparatively compact unit acknowledging the Olu Okeri as its Leader, and the five village areas of East Yagba, which in turn frequently appear to split into individual villages. The Yagba Council has asked that the Agbana Isanlu and the Olu Okeri be made District Heads of East and West Yagba respectively, and become a joint Native Authority. It is by no means certain that this is the desire of the people and no decision on the matter has yet been taken. Both the Ijumu and Yagba Councils meet regularly every quarter and a Divisional Chiefs Conference at which the Agbana Isanlu and the Olu Okeri represent Yagba and the Group Heads Ijumu, meets twice a year.

4. The trouble in the Igbedde Group of Ijumu caused by the Ex-Olugbedde appears now to have settled down. The Ex-Olugbedde left the area for a time, while he wrote innumerable petitions and brought civil actions in the Magistrate's Court against the Elders. He was unsuccessful in his endeavours and has now returned to his house in Aiyetoro where he is remaining quiet and mixing not at all with the people.

5. Native Courts: The Aworo and Bunu Courts continue to hear few case whereas the two Yagba Courts and those of Kabba and Ijumu hear a very large number of cases mainly matrimonial. The Ijumu and East Yagba Court are most unsatisfactory and many cases are reviewed. In the early part of the year the number of Criminal Cases involving larceny heard in the Yagba Courts was large, but the wave of Crime receded later in the year.

6. Improved communications in Nigeria have led to a weakening of the effectiveness of Native Marriage customs. Formerly a woman remained with her husband because, in spite of a desire to leave him, she would find it difficult to leave her own area. Now women run away with their lovers as far afield as Kano and Lagos, often taking their children with them. The expense involved in settling such cases precludes action being taken through the court owing to the litigant's inability to deposit the amounts necessary to cover transport and subsistence.

7. Economic: Of graded produce the figures for the eleven months to 30th November are Palm Kernels 175 tons, Cocoa 112 tons as compared with 162 tons and 100 tons in 1945. In addition 3 tons of Shea Nuts and 113 tons of Castor Seed were exported. No figures are available for the produce exported from the Ifo-Ejuku area of Yagba District to the Western Provinces. A considerable export of locally woven cloth, peppers and tobacco has flourished. The figures for Shea Nuts is low owing to the incentives of lack of money and abundance of consumer goods is absent.

8. Prices of local foodstuffs have continued to rise, the present level being roughly 50% above the same period in 1944, and are now well above those pertaining in Lokoja.

9. Education: The Policy of encouraging the formation of Community Schools in which Missions combine with Moslem and Pagan elements to further education has been followed during the year. Difficulties over finance have been encountered and application has been made for assistance similar to that given to approved Mission Schools. Three new Community and seven Mission Schools have been opened during the year. The demand for Secondary Schools in the Division is insistent.

10. Mining: Supervision of Mining activities has improved with the posting of a Beacon Inspector to Egbe. All tantalile mining has now ceased, Miners confining their activities to tin and gold. The number of labourers employed has dropped considerably since the end of the war. Prospecting over an area of 700 square miles in Yagba District is being carried-out by the newly-formed London and African Mining Company. The Government Geologist surveying in the Division has completed the field work in Yagba District and is now working in Bunu District.

11. Medical: Medical facilities in the Division are confined to one Native Administration Dispensary, three Mission Dispensaries and the Sudan Interior Mission Leper Camp near Ejiba. There is a demand for more dispensaries and three for Yagba Native Administration and four for Kabba Native Administration are now under consideration. Temporary accommodation at the Leper Camp is now adequate and work is going forward on permanent quarters for the lepers. A Medical Officer is now stationed permanently at the Camp. The number of inmates has now reached 1300.

T.F.G. Hopkins

District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.

MOA.

The Resident,
Kabba Province,
Lokoja.

No.803/185.
Kabba, 13th January,1947.

Duplicate

I send herewith annual report for 1946, in respect of Kabba Division.

Pp 15-24 Kbf 20/1

J.Z.G.Hopkins

District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.

MOA:

Kabba Divisional Annual Report, 1946.

Index.

Kabba Divisional Annual Report, 1946
Part II Divisional Affairs.

Area and Boundaries. Unchanged. Disputes over the islands in the Niger between Aworo and Koton Karifi persist.

Population. 2. The annual recount produced the following figures as compared with 1945:-

N.A.	A.M.	A.F.	Children M.	Children F.	Infirm. M.	Infirm. F.	Blind M.	Blind F.	Lepers M.	Lepers F.	Total
Kabba	-53	-235	+319	+303	-16	-63	+10	+ 1	-27	-30	+209
Yagba	-65	+184	+157	+ 41	+32	-150	- 5	+10	- 5	- 2	+197

Divisional Staff. 3. There was no District Officer for the period 1 - 14 January until Mr.T.F.G.Hopkins, District Officer, returned from leave and took-over on 15 January and remained in charge for the rest of the year. In June the District Officer toured Koton Karifi and from Mid June to Mid August was also in charge of Igbirra Division owing to a grave shortage of Staff in the Province. Mr.V.L.Cornish, Assistant District Officer, was posted to the Division on 10 October and remained to the end of the year.

Clerical Staff. 4. Mr.A.A.Utuk 2nd Grade Clerk, has been Divisional Clerk throughout the year. Mr.M.O.Adebosin was appointed Clerical Assistant on 16 November and remained to the end of the year.

Non-Clerical Staff. 5. M.Haruna, the Senior Government Messenger, was suspended on 5.3.46 pending trial on a charge under Section 100 of Criminal Code. He was later convicted in the Court of the Magistrate, Benin, and dismissed as from the date of suspension. He was replaced by ex-NCSM Braima Kabba.

6. The following served in the Division during the period:-

M. Haruna	1.1.46	- 4.3.46
M. Mundi	1.1.46	- 31.12.46
Jonathan Oluwole	1.1.46	- 31.12.46
NCSM Braima Kabba	10.3.46	- 31.12.46

Visitors. 7. Visits were paid to the Division as under:-

Resident, Kabba Province	-	Thrice
Director, Geological Survey	-	Once
Registrar, Co-Operative Societies		Once
Town Planning Officer (Northern Provinces)	-	Once
Inspector of Produce (Akure)	-	Quarterly
Forest Officer (Ondo)	-	Once
Senior Health Officer (Northern Provinces)	-	Once
Senior Asst.Supt. of Police, Lokoja	-	Once
Provincial Engineer, Lokoja	-	Numerous
Education Officer, Okene	-	Thrice
Archdeacon Lennon	-	Twice
Asst.Surveyor P.&.T. (Benin)	-	Twice
Medical Officer, Lokoja	-	Six
Magistrate, Benin Area	-	Once
Deputy Director Sleeping - Sickness Service	-	Once
Inspector of Mines, Western Area		Numerous
Senior Leprosy Officer	-	Once
Agricultural Officer Ilorin	-	Thrice
Veterinary Officer Ilorin	-	Twice
Textile Expert	-	Once

Events of Importance.

8. His Excellency the Governor and Staff accompanied by Lady Richards, Dr.and Mrs Crawford, and the Resident visited Kabba on 28 September. After the presentation of an address by the Divisional Chiefs His Excellency replied and later addressed a parade of ex-servicemen. After luncheon with the District Officer His Excellency and party returned to Lokoja.

9. Empire and Victory Days were celebrated by School sports etc.

10. Few men from the Division remain to be demobilised from the Forces. Employment has been found for some 12½ % of returned ex-servicemen but the remainder show a disinclination to return to the land though their general demeanour and good behaviour are a credit to the training they have received.

11. The announcement to the Native Authorities and people of the new Constitution for Nigeria left them unmoved. Few could understand the implications of the change. The Divisional Meeting lead to the selection of Mr.Ambrose Olowosula, the Kabba Native Court Clerk, as the Divisional Representative to the Provincial Metting. He was not, however, chosen as the Provincial Representative to the Northern House of Assembly.

Part III Native Administration and Departmental Activities.

Aworo District. 12. The difficulty of transporting long timber for the repair of the bridge at mile 11½ on the Lokoja - Agbaja road and pressure of work has led to the continued neglect of this district, only one visit having been made during the year. In spite of this however the aged Olu Aworo continues tp administer the district satisfactorily.

13. Childish disputes over the islands in the Niger between Aworo and Koton Karifi continue, pride being the main reason for their continuance. The Olu Aworo is unable or unwilling to recognise the difference between established farming rights and administrative boundaries. Where cdrtain islands were adjudged to belong to Aworo he attempted to evict people from Koton Karifi who had farmed on these islands for many years. The basis of many disputes dates from the fixing of the boundary as the main channel which in fact changes from year to year.

Bunu District. 14. Like Aworo this district has been toured only once during the year owing to the size of the district, poor communications and the density of population, which is scattered, being merely 9.1 per square mile. Administration is not easy and unless regularly visited control becomes lax. The not-too-high standard of the past has dropped but the district is still better administered than Ijumu and Yagba districts which receive most attention.

Kabba District. 15. This district continues to be the one bright spot in a gloomy administrative picture. The Obaro is capable and respected and compared with his neighbours is a paragon of honesty and straight-dealing.

Ijumu District. 16. The unsatisfactory state of affairs in this district has shown little improvement in spite of considerable attention from the District Officer. The incompetence and complete failure of the Central Council to function as a Native Authority leads one to doubt whether any improvement can be expected from it in its present form. A suggestion from the District Officer that the Council should be reduced in numbers, or alternatively that the 3 group heads should

form a joint Native Authority, was discussed by them in May but they were unanimous for the continuance of the status quo. The main stumbling block to good administration is the vanity and self-importance of every petty headman and title-holder coupled with mutual jealousy and suspicion causing a continual jockeying for position and prestige.

17. The trouble caused by J.B.Asaju, the ex-Olu Gbedde appears now to have been settled. He left the district on the advice of the District Officer and went to live in Ikare from whence he bombarded the Government with petitions and the Magistrate's Court with actions against his successor and the elders of Igbedde. His suits in the Magistrate's Court were dismissed and his petitions resulted in his eventual return to his house in Aiyetoro, where he is now living in seclusion and, as far as is known, interfering not at all in the administration. It is thought that the real trouble from the beginning was potential rather than real and derived from his rudeness to his successor.

Yagba District. 18. As with the Ijumu Council the Yagba Council has continued to demonstrate its ineffectiveness as an executive body. The units comprising the federation of the Yagba Native Administration are not even themselves units in the true administrative sense. Every little village likes to run its own affairs and resents any outside interference from the Village Head or anyone else. The future of this Native Administration is dependent on the co-operation of all the Yagbas, and until this is achieved no progress can be made. The Council is fond of making decisions but unless the District Officer implements them nothing whatever is done. Their future is in their own hands, as has been repeated to them at nauseam, but they will co-operate in nothing except the construction of roads by volunteer labour, a matter which is closely connected with their pockets and is therefore worth making an effort. Bowing to the will of a majority is not done in Yagba; the minority will spend the rest of their lives petitioning Government about the injustice of the decision. If this unpleasant characteristic can ever be eradicated is a matter of grave doubt, but until it is eradicated no administrative progress is possible.

19. Discussions by the Council in May and December took place regarding its reorganisation. At the latter meeting, attended by the Resident, it was decided by 17 votes to 3 that the Agbana Isanlu should become District Head of East Yagba and by a unanimous vote that Olu Okeri should become District Head of West Yagba. The dissentients in East Yagba were the Aloko of Mopa and the 2 other Mopa members. The Aloko was relegated from District Head East Yagba to a Village Head when the Council became the Native Authority in 1936. Not unnaturally he says that if East Yagba is again to have a District Head he has the best claim. He is, however, unpopular and was on the point of being dismissed when the Council was formed, and, it is thought, has not the backing of a large part of his own people in the Mopa Area.

20. The future constitution for Yagba was agreed by the Council and approved by the Resident, to be the Agbana of Isanlu and the Olu Okeri as Joint Native Authority with an Advisory Council of the Village Area Heads from East and West Yagba and the Native Treasury Accountant. The matter is to be put to His Honour the Chief Commissioner for his approval.

21. The people of Egbe Oke, a part of the Egbe Village Area in West Yagba, continue to agitate for the re-instatement of the ex-Owa, a man of bad character who was twice convicted before the Magistrate's Court before being dismissed. It is thought that it is not necessarily the ex-Owa they want, but someone in Egbe Oke, since as his backers there will be pickings. In the numerous petitions sent to Government by "The Aggrieved People of Egbe" no cogent reasons are ever given for the granting of the request. The answer is to be found in paragraph 18 above.

General Tax.

22. There was no change in the tax rate this year. The assessment for 1945/46 and 1946/47 is given below :-

N. A.	1945/46	1946/47
Kabba	£5854. 2. 8	£5792. 3. 8
Yagba	£5146. -. -	£5118. 9. 6

Native Treasuries.

23. The work of the Kabba Native Treasury has been on the whole good; the Accountant can be trusted in the correctness of his methods and his accuracy but he shows an inherent inability to grasp the finance side of Native Treasury work. The Yagba Native Treasury Accountant has proved himself too unreliable, careless and slovenly to continue in his appointment and has been notified that he will be relieved of his appointment at the end of the financial year. It is unfortunate that the least reliable of the Native Treasury Accountants should be at a distance from Kabba and consequently get less supervision. The point has now been reached where the District Officer cannot reasonably be held responsible for the finance of the Yagba Native Administration until a man of greater capabilities is found.

Judicial.

24. Magistrate's Court: 5 criminal and 1 civil cases were heard by the Magistrate, Kabba, during the year; 2 criminal and 3 civil were heard by the Magistrate, Benin, sitting at Kabba. Preliminary Investigations were heard in 2 homicide cases both of which were tried at Ilorin before the Supreme Court Judge. Convictions were obtained in both cases.

25. Native Courts. The recording of cases and the accounts kept by Court Clerks has improved though there is room for much improvement. The standard of education of the East Yagba clerk is a handicap and it is proposed to replace him. The Kabba, Bunu, Aworo and West Yagba Courts are satisfactory and a real effort to administer justice is made. The Ijumu and East Yagba courts are definitely unsatisfactory many judgments being biassed or vindictive, this applies particularly to land case. The volume of work in both courts is really beyond the capability of the court to complete in a one week sitting, cases are consequently tried in a hurry which further adds to the unsatisfactoriness of these 2 courts.

26. From the appended table it will be readily seen that except in Aworo there is a large increase in the number

33. There have been a few sporadic outbreaks of small pox during the period but prompt action was taken and no epidemics ensued. Over 5000 vaccinations were carried out during the period.

34. A start at improving the deplorable lack of sanitation in villages throughout the Division has been made in Kabba Town where the almost complate lack of domestic salgas is being remedied.

35. The position regarding the Sudan Interior Mission Leper Settlement at Oyi River in the early part of the year was most unsatisfactory. The whip-up of lepers to the camp had resulted in some 1300 admissions at a time when there was accomodation only for a few hundred. Had it not been for the fear that, having collected the lepers, to send them home until adequate accomodation was available would result in great difficulty in getting them to return, the camp would have been closed by the Medical Department. Mr.McIvor was doing an excellent job under great difficulty providing temporary accomodation, when, in April, the Senior Leprosy Officer inspected. As a result of his report a Medical Officer was posted as Superintendent and before the end of the year temporary accomodation was completed and permanent accomodation under construction. The number of inmates had dropped to 850 and admissions had for the time ceased. The Superintendent however, expects to be ready to fill the Settlement to capacity (1200 inmates) by March next year.

Posts & Telegraphs. 36. A new Postal Agency was approved in April for Ekinrin but owing to shortage of equipment had not been opened by the end of the year. Another at Aiyetoro is under consideration.

37. The mail service from Kabba via Mopa-Isanlu-Egbe to Ilorin became very irregular in the early part of the year owing to the shortage of bicycles, tyres and tubes. The position improved later in the year and the service is now fairly satisfactory.

Education. 38. The demand for education in the division continues to be insistent. 2 new Mission Schools and 3 new Community Schools were opened during the year and 2 Mission Schools were closed. The finances of Community Schools is proving rather difficult and the Native Administration has had to take-over the payment of all Cola in addition to Grants-in-aid. The question of levying an education rate has been abandoned, but it has still to be proved that these Schools can be financed satisfactorily under the present arrangement.

Agriculture. 39. All other Agricultural news is dwarfed by the seriousness of yet another failure in the yam crop. This year's yield was better than last at 50 % to 60 % of normal yield. To the people of this division any other food but yam is looked-on as semi-starvation and there is no question of expecting a change of diet and cropping to result from these repeated failures; only under extreme pressure of circumstances will a change be made. Planting is carried-out in October - December, the seed germinates with the first storms in March-April, but is dependent for life on sufficient rain in April-May.

For the past 5 years the April-May rains have been fickle, hence the poor crops. The obvious answer is to plant in April or May as is done in Igala. I now find that, in spite of paragraph 36 in my Half-yearly Report for 1946, the only objection to this is the fear that no seed will be left to plant. Everywhere I am told "our families will eat all the yams if we do not plant in October-December". A vicious circle indeed, but the remedy is in their hands as they have been told repeatedly.

40. The guninea-corn and maize crops were well up to average. Cassava planting increased due to supplying yam failures with cassava. The early cowpeas crop was attacked by pests in many areas and was a failure, fickle late rains produced a poor second crop. Cotton yields were average.

41. The rainfall compared with the past 4 years is given below :-

Month	1942 Kabba	1942 Isanlu	1943 Kabba	1943 Isanlu	1944 Kabba.	1944 Isanlu	1945 Kabba.	1945 Isanlu.	1946 Kabba	1946 Isanlu
Jan.	3.85	1.82	.14	-	1.13	-	-	-	.64	-
Feb.	-	-	.61	-	.70	-	-	-	.47	-
Mar.	2.65	-	.88	3.82	4.77	4.01	.68	.25	.03	1.43
Apr.	5.20	1.26	3.86	1.20	2.86	2.64	3.45	2.06	5.82	3.20
May.	8.68	3.71	7.06	9.20	4.53	5.93	5.11	6.54	4.19	7.34
Jun.	3.36	2.35	5.96	11.42	3.52	4.28	10.18	11.98	5.94	7.19
Jul.	9.88	8.58	3.48	4.86	10.35	8.63	13.64	11.77	10.01	7.38
Aug.	6.35	4.70	9.27	5.26	7.86	7.60	5.53	3.92	2.66	1.26
Sep.	14.08	15.88	12.67	8.66	13.87	15.64	10.09	7.09	9.20	5.37
Oct.	11.00	7.32	7.42	3.11	7.84	6.55	6.70	4.94	5.90	8.52
Nov.	.01	-	2.62	.61	-	-	.51	.58	1.67	-
Dec.	.36	-	.16	-	-	-	-	.14	1.34	.11
Tot.	65.42	45.62	55.23	48.14	57.43	55.28	55.89	49.27	47.87	42.30

A heavy storm on 26 December measured 1.34" at Kabba and .11 at Isanlu.

42. The demand for seedlings from the Kabba Native Administration nursery was far in excess of supply. The new Yagba Native Administration nursery will be producing in 1947. Experiments in the dry-season cultivation of onions and potatoes are being carried-out in the 2 Unit Farms.

43. Gradual improvement of the breed of cattle continues by the issue of Ndama type bulls to village herds. All young stock in the Kabba herd are now of improved type. The Kabba Dairy was taken-over by the Kabba Native Administration as from 1/5/46. The smallness of the herd makes it difficult for this dairy to be self supporting and from the 7 months working it would appear that a loss of some £6 per annum is likely to result until the size of the herd increases.

Forestry.

44. There has been no Forest Officer in the Province throughout the year. A considerable increase in revenue has resulted from building activity calling for a greater output of locally-sawn timber. Application has been made for a further enclave in the Bunu Native Authority Reserve No.2 (Olle Reserve) for the village of Igbo, the enclave to be offset by an extension of the reserve. The matter awaits the report of the Forestry Department. The Forest Guard dismissed in 1945 has been replaced by an ex-Serviceman.

Veterinary.

45. The Veterinary Officer Ilorin has visited the division twice during the year and advised on the control of disease. The Veterinary Assistant from Igbirra Native Administration was lent on two occasions and carried out 1169 antrax vaccinations and 535 blackquarter vaccinations. A census of cattle in the division showed a total of 1952 (Kabba 499 Yagba 1453).

Public Works.

46. Government: Sites for the new District Officer's house, Divisional Office, Post Office and Postmaster's Quarters have been selected and await His Honour's approval. Owing to shortage of staff and materials it seems unlikely that work will commence before 1948.

47. A new steel and concrete bridge at mile 8 on the Kabba - Lokoja road has been completed and improvement and rebuilding of bridges on the Kabba - Omu Oke road was well forward by the end of the year.

48. Normal repairs and maintenance have been carried out on Trunk A roads and on Government buildings.

49. Native Administration: Final estimates for the Isanlu - Egbe road and the Kampe bridge have been approved and it is expected that work will start early in 1947 under the immediate supervision of the Public Works Development Officer.

50. The new Police lines at Kabba were in course of construction at the end of the year. The police office and lock-up at Isanlu were almost completed. New rest houses at Ekinrin and Odokoro were under construction.

51. The Ofere - Akutukpa road was in course of construction partly from Native Administration funds and partly by volunteer labour. Improvements to the bridges on the Otungbedde - Luke road were well forward. A new dry-season road was started in December with volunteer labour from Jege via Ogga to Okeri to connect the western area of Yagba with the Yagba - Ilorin road.

52. A new drainage scheme for Kabba Town was well forward by the end of the year. This work should do much towards stopping erosion from water flowing down the hill west of the town.

Mining.

53. The number of labourers employed in mining had dropped to below 300 by the middle of the year and it was proposed to withdraw the two Sleeping Sickness Dispensary Attendants from the area. The number doubled however in December when the London and African Mining Trust Limited took a 12 months option of Mr. M.L.Hamber's lease at Okolom. The question of withdrawing the Sleeping Sickness Staff is being reconsidered.

54. During the year a Mines Department Office was opened at Egbe and a Beacon Inspector posted there.

55. The re-survey of the Yagba area by Mr Jaques, Geologist, has been completed and he is now working in the Bunu - Kupa area.

Trade and Economic.

56. The partial failure of the yam crop has led to a further increase in the price of foodstuffs. The tendency to leave the land has not helped the situation. In spite of the poor cowpeas crop and the drop in exports of maize and cowpeas there is no shortage of money. Large quantities of tobacco and peppers continue to be exported, mainly to Auchi.

57. Produce exported, not including an unknown quantity from Yagba through the Western Provinces, was as follows :-

Produce	Tons
Palm Kernels	176.24
Cocoa	114.31
Castor Seed	116.16

Missions.

58. The relations between the people and the Missions remain cordial. Only two cases of friction occurred. In Igbagun a fend between the Sudan Interior Mission adherents and the Moslems breaks out in blows from time to time, largely due to the tactlessness of the Sudan Interior Mission teacher and the partizanship of the chief, who was sewerely censured by the Yagba Council and subsequently fined in the East Yagba Native Court. In Ife the intrigues of the Roman Catholic Mission adherents who tried to enlist the Sudan Interior Mission followers to boycott the Community School caused a deal of bad feeling.

Part IV. General.

59. An unsatisfactory year of dealing with essentials and matters of urgency with little time to give to details. It cannot be claimed that any of the leeway of the war years has yet been made up. The preoccupation of the people from the highest to the lowest with personal affairs and the making of money, with inflation further complicating the situation, is not a sound basis for progress and development.

J. F. G. Hopkins

District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.

MOA:

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